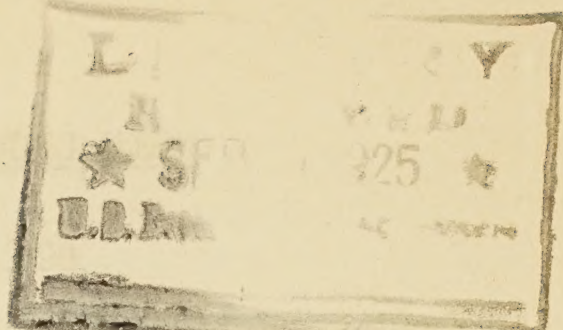


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

A scenic demonstration booth exhibit showing how to prevent losses caused by lightning; and samples of material used in equipping buildings.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 14' wide by 7' deep.

Wall space - - - - - None.

Shipping weight - - - - - 1025 lbs.

Electrical requirements - 110 volt A.C. current

700 watts needed for lights and small
motor.

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

How It Looks

The destructive result of lightning and how it may be successfully combatted is vividly demonstrated in this exhibit.

The exhibit is in the form of a booth 14 feet wide, 7 feet deep and 7 feet high, which is built to resemble the living room of a country home.

Looking through the double windows of the center section one sees two barns, one rodded and the other unrodded, separated by a lane. A rumble of thunder is heard; then a sharp flash of lightning accompanied by flickering sheet lightning, appears to strike the smaller unprotected barn.

After a short interval this barn lights up and is soon a red glow of fire, supposed to result from lightning striking it.

After the smaller, unprotected barn has seemingly been set on fire, the sound of thunder is again heard and the large barn is struck by a bolt from the sky. But in this case the lightning does no damage as the barn is protected by properly installed lightning rods. It is a very impressive demonstration which will not be soon forgotten.

In front of the window stands an easel bearing a placard which states the risk run by not equipping buildings with lightning rods.

On the right section is a painting depicting a dairy farm scene where the buildings are protected from lightning. On the left section are enlarged colored photographs showing destruction and damage by lightning to animals, buildings, silos, chimneys, etc.

Samples of lightning conductors, air terminals, and other fittings are shown in the exhibit.

What It Tells

The small placard in front of the center panel presents briefly in a simple ratio, 2 to 98, the results of statistical studies of fire losses in rodded and un-

rodded buildings respectively caused by lightning, principally in the Middle Western States. These statistics furnish convincing evidence of the efficacy of rodding. A properly rodded building is practically immune from damage by lightning. Much less than an ounce of prevention produces a pound of cure in this case.

The injuries to barns and houses fired by lightning; silos and chimneys partly wrecked; stock, under isolated trees or alongside ungrounded wire fences, killed; and so on, are all very largely preventable and should not be tolerated. There are enough losses of other kinds more difficult or apparently impossible to avoid, without adding to them. As the National Board of Fire Underwriters says: "Nothwithstanding the demonstrated efficacy of approved rodding, lightning continues to take toll of the heedless."

Isolated trees in pastures where stock congregate should also be rodded, and wire fences carefully grounded, because the stock are endangered if they are left ungrounded.

Samples of conductors, fasteners, air terminals, etc., are exhibited on the shelves.

It is estimated that over 70 per cent of the total fire loss caused by lightning occurs amongst farm barns and dwellings, of which 60 per cent is due to fires in unrodded barns.

ROD YOUR FARM BUILDINGS, ESPECIALLY THE BARNs.

Where to Get Information

The free Farmers' Bulletin No. 842 gives detailed information regarding the material and methods employed in protection against lightning. This may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

